

## Message Text

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43

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AGR-10 EB-07

COME-00 TRSE-00 OPIC-06 AID-05 /080 W

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R 202126Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0964

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

USCINCSO

USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS TEGUCIGALPA 3644

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EINV, PINT, EAGR, HO

SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION TO CANCELLATION OF FRUIT COMPANIES' CONCESSIONS

REF: TEGUCIGALPA 3626

1. LIBERAL DAILY TIEMPO OF AUGUST 19 PRINTED THREE INTERVIEWS  
RELATED TO THE BANANA CONCESSIONS DECREE ANNOUNCED BY CHIEF  
OF STATE MELGAR AUGUST 15.

2. RENE ALIRIO MURILLO, PROFESSOR OF LAW AT NATIONAL  
UNIVERSITY, STATED: "THE BANANA COMPANIES WILL CONTINUE TO  
ENJOY MANY ADVANTAGES PROTECTED BY THE COUNTRY'S  
INDUSTRICAL DEVELOPMENT LAW AND WILL BE ABLE TO  
PARTICIPATE IN DIFFERENT PROJECTS WITH ALL OF THE  
ADVANTAGES GRANTED TO THE COUNTRY'S OLIGARCHY,  
PERHAPS EVEN UNDER BETTER CONDITIONS."

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3. JUAN ANTONIO MARTELL, ALSO PROFESSOR OF LAW IN THE SAME FACULTY, WAS QUOTED "THIS BRINGS TO MIND US AMBASSADOR SANCHEZ'S STATEMENT APPROVING THE DECREE TO PUT AN END TO THE CONCESSIONS" (NOTE: AMBASSADOR SANCHEZ NEVER MADE THIS STATEMENT) AND ADDED "THE NEW ECONOMIC POLICY OF THE US IN RELATION WITH DEPENDENT COUNTRIES IS IN ACCORD WITH ITS FAMOUS FOREIGN TRADE ACT WHICH WILL PLACE THIS COUNTRY AMONG THOSE COUNTRIES WHO HAVE TAKEN NATIONALIZATION MEASURES WITHOUT PROPER REIMBURSEMENT." HE ENDED BY SAYING "I HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT THE TREATMENT GIVEN THE BANANA COMPANIES IS IN ACCORD WITH THE NEO-COLONIAL POLICY OF THE US".

4. ARMANDO AGUILUZ, LIBERAL PARTY LEADER AND MEMBER OF THE HONDURAN SUPREME COURT, WAS QUOTED AS SAYING "EVERY CONQUEST BRINGS WITH IT SOVEREIGN RIGHTS WHICH INCLUDE THE RECOVERY OF NATURAL RESOURCES."

5. TIEMPO ALSO CARRIED AN EDITORIAL BY ANDRES ALVARADO ENTITLED "END OF BANANA COMPANY PRIVILEGES" WHICH WENT INTO THE HISTORICAL ASPECTS OF THE COMPANIES IN HONDURAS.

6. SAN PEDRO SULA'S CONSERVATIVE LA PRENSA PUBLISHED AN INTERVIEW WITH CHIEF OF STATE MELGAR AT THE INAUGURATION OF THE AGRARIAN REFORM CONFERENCE. WHEN QUERIED REGARDING THE POSSIBILITY OF THE US APPLYING THE HICKENLOOPER AMENDMENT, COLONEL MELGAR STATED "HONDURAS IS EXERCISING A SOVEREIGN RIGHT, NOT EXPROPRIATING OR NATIONALIZING THE BANANA COMPANIES; THEREFORE THE HICKENLOOPER AMENDMENT IS NOT APPLICABLE."

7. THE LA PRENSA EDITORIAL STRONGLY APPROVES THE GOH ACTION OF CANCELLING THE FRUIT COMPANY CONCESSIONS, BUT EXPRESSES DOUBTS REGARDING THE CREATION OF THE GOVERNMENT-SPONSORED HONDURAN BANANA CORPORATION ANNOUNCED BY THE CHIEF OF STATE IN HIS AUGUST 15 SPEECH.

8. INDEPENDENT BUT LEFTIST-LEANING EL DIA FEATURED COLONEL MALDONADO MUNOZ'S OPENING SPEECH AT THE WEEK-LONG UNCLASSIFIED

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AGRARIAN REFORM SEMINAR UNDER A FRONT PAGE BANNER HEADLINE - "THE LAND IS FOR THE PERSON WHO TILLS IT." THE ARTICLE IS A SUMMARY OF MALDONADO'S SPEECH WHICH CENTERED ON THE PROBLEM CONFRONTING THE APPLICATION OF THE AGRARIAN REFORM LAW IN HONDURAS. SANCHEZ

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